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Written Testimony of Christopher Phelps, Environment Connecticut Program Director
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee

Monday February 2, 2009

Supporting House Bill 5474, An Act Concerning Private, Municipal, and State Recycling

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and members of the Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today concerning HB 5474. Environment Connecticut organization strongly supports efforts to increase the quality and effectiveness of Connecticut's recycling programs and applauds the committee's efforts on this issue.

If you were to travel the country visiting states, cities and towns from coast to coast you would find numerous examples of effective recycling programs. In Portland Oregon for example, you would find a comprehensive collection of recycling programs serving residences and businesses in the greater Portland metropolitan region. These coordinated programs are provided to the 1.4 million residents of the metropolitan Portland region by its elected Metro Regional Government, serving 25 municipalities in 3 counties.¹

Similar programs can be found in many states and metropolitan areas nationwide. In many places you would find recycling receptacles on street corners and in public buildings. In other areas you'd find municipal, county, metropolitan and state programs that provide comprehensive recycling services and information to homeowners, businesses, schools and more. But when you returned to Connecticut, you would be hard pressed to find similar evidence of commitment to recycling by policy makers at any level.

Environment Connecticut urges the General Assembly to enact legislation such as this that could lay the foundation for revitalizing Connecticut's state, regional and local recycling programs.

Sincerely,

Christopher Phelps
Environment Connecticut

¹ <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/> Accessed 2/1/09.